



NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Rogers Property Site

Southwest Corner of South Main and West High Streets, Blenheim, South Carolina

DHEC (the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control) is accepting public comments on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract until July 25, 2011.

The Voluntary Cleanup Contract, 11-5965-NRP, will affect approximately 12 acres identified by Marlboro County tax map number 59-00-01-12. The Town of Blenheim (Town) wants to buy the property from its current owners. This Voluntary Cleanup Contract will be between DHEC and the Town.

The property has been used for growing crops, storing grain, chemical storage and maintaining and storing farm equipment since the early 1900s. A gas station was located at the corner of South Main and West High Streets. There are structures on the property. General location uses around the property include West High Street and residences to the north, South Main Street and a church, community center, and residences to the east, Broad Street and agricultural fields and a forested area to the south, and Highland Street and agricultural fields to the west.

The Town intends to redevelop the property into a recreational complex for the community and Marlboro County School District. If this Voluntary Cleanup Contract is implemented, DHEC will allow the Town to acquire the property as a "Brownfields Site" because of the potential for environmental pollution. The Town did not create the pollution, but will take steps to control it to keep the property safe for re-use.

DHEC will not hold the Town responsible for the pre-existing pollution in exchange for doing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Contract. Under State law, the Town will not be responsible if anyone is affected by the contamination. Entering into this contract does not reduce the responsibility of any former owners or operators of the site.

Under the proposed contract, the Town will test soil and groundwater from the property. If significant contamination is found, the Town will be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment.

DHEC uses Voluntary Cleanup Contracts to keep Brownfield sites in productive reuse. The proposed contract is available at http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/public_notice.asp. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the proposed contract until July 25, 2011. Questions or comments may be directed to Mark Berenbrok, Project Manager, email berenbm@dhc.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896-6848 or Alex Fulmer, email FulmerWA@dhc.sc.gov or TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432. Written comments should be directed to either individual at SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.